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5 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6
7 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
8

9 WAYMO LLC,

No. C 17-00939 WHA

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.;
13 OTTOMOTTO LLC; and OTTO
14 TRUCKING LLC,

**ORDER ON *DAUBERT*
MOTION RE JIM TIMMINS
AND MOTION *IN LIMINE* RE
DUE DILIGENCE**

15 Defendants.
16 _____/

17 After two continuances of the trial date and in advance of the third final pretrial
18 conference in this action for trade secret misappropriation, this order **DENIES** defendants'
19 *Daubert* motion to exclude plaintiff's corporate transactions expert and also **DENIES** plaintiff's
20 motion *in limine* to exclude evidence of a third-party due diligence investigation and report.

21 **1. UBER'S *DAUBERT* MOTION RE JIM TIMMINS.**

22 Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc., and Ottomotto LLC (collectively, "Uber") move to
23 exclude plaintiff Waymo LLC's corporate transactions expert Jim Timmins from opining that
24 Anthony Levandowski controls and indirectly owns Tyto through a trust, on the basis that
25 Timmins is not an attorney with experience in the law of trusts (Dkt. No. 1612). Timmins is the
26 managing director of a business valuation and financial advisory firm and has worked for over
27 35 years in investment banking, venture capital investing, and valuation services. He has
28 specialized experience in corporate transactions and is "familiar with documents for corporate,
pass-through, and trust entities and transactions involving them" (*see* Dkt. No. 1774-11 ¶¶

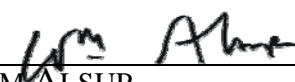
1 1–13). His opinion is essentially a succinct summary of the paper trail between Levandowski
2 and Tyto and will assist the jury in understanding this complicated issue. He will therefore be
3 permitted to explain this issue from a *corporate* perspective, without prejudice to targeted
4 objections at trial if he veers off into improper legal opinions beyond the scope of his expertise.
5 Furthermore, on direct examination, Waymo is **ORDERED** to have Timmins come to grips with
6 Uber’s accusations that his opinion is simply incorrect and contradicts the actual documentary
7 evidence (*see* Dkt. No. 1887-4 at 1–4). Except as stated herein, Uber’s motion is **DENIED**.

8 **2. WAYMO’S MIL NO. 18 RE DUE DILIGENCE.**

9 Waymo moves to preclude Uber from introducing evidence or arguing that Uber relied
10 on the Stroz Friedberg due diligence investigation and report to prevent trade secret
11 misappropriation (Dkt. No. 2194). *First*, Waymo contends Uber has no evidence of such
12 reliance because it asserted privilege over communications concerning the due diligence
13 investigation and report. In its response, however, Uber clearly identifies non-privileged
14 evidence — including the due diligence report itself — that could potentially support either
15 side’s narrative (*see* Dkt. No. 2245 at 2–4). *Second*, Waymo contends that, in light of its
16 assertions of privilege, Uber is precluded from relying on an advice-of-counsel defense, but
17 Uber expressly disclaims reliance on any such defense in its response (*see id.* at 4–5). Waymo
18 remains free to raise targeted sword-and-shield objections at trial if Uber attempts to selectively
19 use *privileged* evidence in its defense. The sweeping preclusion sought by Waymo’s motion,
20 however, is unwarranted. The due diligence investigation and report are crucial evidence at the
21 heart of this case. Both sides will be able to make their arguments to the jury based on that
22 evidence. Waymo’s motion is therefore **DENIED**.

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24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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26 Dated: January 18, 2018.

27 
28 WILLIAM ALSUP
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE